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Die grossstädtischen Agglomerationen des Deutschen Reichs 1871-1910. By SIGMUND SCHOTT. Schriften des Verbandes deutscher Städtestatistiker, 1. (Breslau: Druck und Verlag von Wilh. Gottl. Korn. 1912. Pp. iv, 130. 3.40 m.)

A most auspicious beginning is made in this the first of a series of publications concerning the statistics of German cities. There were in 1910, 48 cities of over 100,000 population in Germany; their total population was about 13,800,000, comprising 21.3 per cent of the population of the kingdom.

The "agglomeration" refers to the population included within two circles, one with a radius of 5, and the other of 10 kilometers. A point was selected, after careful study, as the center of each city and from this arbitrary point the circumferences were constructed. Thirty-seven cities were covered in this way. The other cities were not separately studied because they were so near a larger city as to fall within the outer circle. Other circles were drawn at a distance of 6, 7, 8 and 9 kilometers from the center and the population and density was calculated for each of these circles. In some cases the business streets of the city were also classified separately and in most cases there had been a steady decrease in the population of the business section of the cities. There was by no means a regular decrease in the density as the radius of the circle increased.

The Bureau of the Census in this country has studied the population of our large industrial centers but it will be difficult to duplicate a study of this kind in the United States as long as the statistics of our cities are published by wards or election districts. The material is available in the Bureau of the Census, but to combine it in such a way as to show changes in density by concentric circles would require a vast expenditure. It is to be hoped that sometime material for a similar volume may be published in this country. The adoption of a uniform area of measurement in our large cities is to be strongly commended. Much is to be said in favor of a twenty-acre unit proposed by the Bureau of the Census and if funds for this purpose were available raw material for social and economic studies of great value would be furnished.

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